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editorial

The Jade of the "Vietnamization"

IN his October 31 "inauguration" ceremony in Saigon, fire-eating traitor Nguyen Van Thieu tried hard to paint a rosy picture with phrases like "the dark days have gone, dawn is coming"... The objective of the "Republic of Viet Nam" was only, he asserted, to check aggression and build a powerful state and enlist stronger confidence from the "allies." It was a magnificent vision but a mere pipe dream, which is, for all its rhetoric, a far cry from facts. It even clashed with the reality of the very occasion. The latter was honoured with all the usual trappings: flags, flowers, music, the 21-gun salute, gorgeously dressed guests, speeches and what not. But it unfolded in a frightfully chilly atmosphere. The houses with all windows closed, the streets completely deserted by the population but swarming with police, guards and troops, the 42,000 cops and soldiers called in to see to the security of the ceremony which lasted only a little over half an hour, the city thoroughly searched, two security cordons set up, one of nearly two miles' radius and the other of more than 6 miles' radius, all that cast a gloom over Thieu's picture. It was the epitome of the overall situation in South Viet Nam. The quietness wrapping the whole function was like that preceding an explosion, while the fuse of the dynamite stick is burning.

OBSERVERS who have been following the developments here over the past months agree that Thieu's new term of office will be a tough stage in a protracted political trepidation. This was heralded in by the failure of Mr Bunker to have a contested election, which was at the same time a rebuff for Thieu and Nixon. It threw a stronger light on the master-servant relationship of the couple. In the heart of Saigon, angry outbursts like "Thieu's maintenance in office means continuation of the war", "Thieu's rule will go on with the carnage" were heard. With this dictator in the saddle, all the "people elected", "democratic", "constitutional"... varnish put by the US on its client regime will peel off to show all the squalor behind it.

A glance at the "inauguration" ceremony was enough to give one an idea of the fragility of the Thieu rule, of its estrangement from the masses, of its fear of every citizen and even of every rooftop. Ironically enough, at the "inauguration" of a "people-elected president," the people and quite a number of members of "parliament" were conspicuously and ominously absent. Another significant fact was that while the oath of office was being administered, students were beating up GI's a few blocks away. Buddhists were praying for peace in pagodas and the director of the Buddhist Institute was declaring: "The tottering South Viet Nam regime sprung from the October 3 rigged election is losing all legal basis and popular confidence."

Mr Nixon's intention to preserve this "confidence" for Thieu by means of sordid frauds, his brains truster Kissinger's modest hope for this Vietnamese quisling to get if not "active support" from the people, at least "passive acceptance" has obviously failed to materialize. In early 1970, the trigger-happy general could still muster the backing of six out of over 50 poticai and religious organizations in Saigon. The figure has now considerably dwindled. His "National Salvation Front" is in a state of deliquescence. In the new "Assembly," the number of his men re-elected runs to a little over ten while the total of opposition members returned for another term remains rather high. More and more representatives urge the removal of Thieu. They have passed a resolution demanding invalidation of election returns in many places and a scrutiny into the October 3 vote.

Popular feeling has been mounting at a rate and with an impetus hitherto unknown. More dissentient forces have emerged, more forms of protest have been devised and more relevant slogans coined. The increasing participation in the anti-Thieu agitation of Catholics till now regarded as sympathetic to the Saigon dictator, the growingly transparent national and peace purport of the new watchwords, the bitter opposition of the masses to election frauds, the youths' assaults on GI's, their resistance to the militarization of schools, the articulate criticisms of the Saigon press of US aggression and "Vietnamization" have been unmistakable indications of the regime's alienation from the people.

Meanwhile the Saigon army which the US has been striving hard to build into a strategic force on the battlefield and a prop for the administration it has spawned has proved to be a rather sickly fosterling. The disastrous routs of the Saigon strategic reserve on the Highway 9-South Laos, Cambodia and other places in South Viet Nam have not only shaken the central quisling administration but also triggered the collapse of its local branches. Its writ is running in shrinking areas and only formally in many a locality.

"Thieu in office means enslavement by the U.S."
"Saigon Science students boycotting exam in protest to the US-Thieu"

"Military defeats, political turmoil, economic and financial difficulties and corruption in the Thieu government have led to more serious dissension, conflict and dispute in the central puppet administration, causing great concern and embarassment to Nixon."

THE US President had a clear cut purpose when he had the October 3 comedy staged: a viable administration in Saigon, which is one of the main aims of "Vietnamization." But the result has fallen far short of his expectation. The Rossinante of his cranky war chariot continues to limp, under a running fire of popular hostility. Mr Nixon is hanging on to such a hag because he still wants to drag out and extend the war and is reluctant to change horses midstream. Such a course of action is far from reflecting the alleged position of strength so much boasted by Mr Porter at the Paris conference. The fact that his boss has had to go on taking care of a "nurseling who has survived measles, small pox and mumps," only portends a prolonged political predicament and the ultimate political bankruptcy of his "Vietnamization."

By keeping Thieu, the US has no other alternative than continued "Vietnamization" aimed at maintaining its neo-colonialist domination of South Viet Nam. It is also the direct path to the abyss of failure. The fate of its quisling regime has long been sealed.

THIEU'S visit to the war dead graves at the Bien Hoa cemetery on the very day of his "inauguration," his wife's tears at the memorial service for Ngo Dinh Diem, disposed of by the same patron with the help of Thieu himself have been read by the people as the writing on the wall. Some even ventured the guess that he and his wife had had some kind of premonition of what would befall them at the hands of the South Vietnamese whose anger has been exacerbated.

SOUTH VIET NAM

(*) Cuu Long "Vietnamization" is doomed to failure, South Viet Nam in Struggle from October 25, 1971.

FORCED MIGRATION — A US-THIEU VICIOUS AND ODIOUS MOVE

ON October 25, the following communique was published by the Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists and Their Agents' War Crimes in South Viet Nam against their vicious and odious scheme: forcible removal of 2,000 families in Quang Tri province to Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) southernmost province and to Nam Bo (former Cochinchina).

The victims had to leave their birth-place, ancestors' graves and migrate to the Trung Bo southernmost province and to Nam Bo, under a big-scale plan to force from two to three million peasants in 5 northern provinces of South Viet Nam to do the same.

It was revealed by the *New York Times* in its Jan. 11, 1971 issue that "the project had been already approved in principle by the highest South Vietnamese and American officials.... A new agency will be formed to handle the movement... The project will be financed by the US." Tran Nguon Phien, the Saigon Minister of Social Welfare, said: "...Only now do we feel that we can go ahead with the plan." Phan Quang Dan, the Saigon Minister of State in charge of the population resettlement program, boasted: "... For those who say yes,... we would bring them right away. The others will follow. I know, they are like sheep. The peasants will jump at the opportunity to have new land" (The *New York Times*, Jan. 11, 1971).

On the other hand, Saigon papers had disclosed that in a short time, the US-Saigon would as an initial step remove 2,000 families of the Gio An and Gio Son villages, Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province, to the Ba To area, Xuyen Moc district, Phuoc Tuy province in Nam Bo. The same papers said that US-puppet plan was to push up the population resettlement program from the level of village to that of district, province and inter-provinces.

As is known to everybody, in the whole course of the past 17 years, the US imperialists and all their successive henchmen, from Diem-Nhu to Nguyen Van Thieu, have seen their different strategies fail one after another: the "strategic hamlet" "State" policy, the "special war" strategy, the "limited war" strategy, etc. But they have not reconciled themselves to their failures; reversely they have become more and more obstinate and crafty. The US imperialists have resorted to "Vietnamization," the main component of which being the fiendish and savage "pacification" program, in the hope of getting out of their quagmire. They have not flinched from any brutality including sweeps, wanton shellings and bombings, toxic chemicals sprayings, levelling off of entire villages by bulldozers, etc.

Under the labels of "pacification," "resettlement," "rural development," etc., they have most blatantly grabbed land, destroyed houses, and penned up South Vietnamese villagers within their system of "strategic hamlets." A "Land to the Tiller" bill was enacted by them to deprive the peasants of their lands. National calamities, floods and cyclones have been used by them to conduct mopping-up and looting operations, thereby aggravating the already precarious and miserable life of the peasants. Commenting on the US-Saigon population transplantation program, *The New Yorker* on Jan. 23, 1971 remarked that previously the US military had already succeeded in removing 6 million South Vietnamese from their native lands, through bombing and the execution of thousands of small-scale forcible migration programs.

It is crystal-clear that the forcible removal of 2,000 families in Gio An and Gio Son villages, Gio Linh district, Quang Tri province, and the planned transplantation of 2—3 million people from the northern provinces of Trung Bo to the southernmost provinces of Trung Bo and to Nam Bo in furtherance of a so-called migration plan, is a sinister and perfidious political scheme which the US has elaborated to interfere with upon the life and freedom of the South Vietnamese people and deport peasants en masse to selected areas where it can easily control and repress them.

By implementing this big-scale population relocation scheme, the US-Saigon rule hopes to turn the provinces south of the 17th parallel into "white zones," "free-firing areas," where all ecological conditions will be suppressed. In scooping out all the people, they dream of destroying revolutionary bases and weakening the people's war forces of our fellow-countrymen.

The Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and Their Agents' War Crimes South Viet Nam strongly denounces to public opinion at home and abroad this heinous crime of the US aggressors and their Saigon stooges, the Nguyen Van Thieu - headed warlike and reactionary clique. "We earnestly appeal to the world peoples, to international democratic organizations and bodies, to the World Association of Democratic Lawyers, and to American progressive politicians and people, to raise their voices and stay in time the US - Saigon bloody hands."

A BAD PHYSICIAN ON AN EMERGENCY CALL

US War Secretary Melvin Laird has just left South Viet Nam after a fact-finding visit spent in discussions with the Saigon war machine topmen.

It was not his first visit to South Viet Nam, but this time he displayed a first class skill as a braggart. After nearly two years in the Pentagon, Laird has really mastered all the psywar techniques. After collecting first-hand information, he boasted of the "tremendous successes" of "Vietnamization," of the Saigon army's high combat efficiency and the Saigon administration and armed forces' ability to cope with the situation.

But Laird can fool nobody. The images of Saigon troops fleeing in disorder from Laos, after being badly battered and retreating in panic from the Krek area (Cambodia), and of the ever growing losses of US support aircraft and tanks on all battlefields are evidence enough of the bankruptcy of the "Vietnamization" strategic formula. As for "pacification," it is a great pity that Laird could not visit Binh Dinh province, a key "pacification" area of "Vietnamization," to check its "success." But let the US war lord read the appraisal by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak in the *International Herald Tribune* on September 18 and 19, 1971: Binh Dinh has been for 3 years now a rampart of the Communists. At present, the situation in this province is as bad as in any other previous periods. It ranked 44th among the 44 provinces of South Viet Nam, in "pacification" level.

The local authorities' weak control, a chronic disease of Binh Dinh, still exists, especially in Phu My district, considered as the worst district of the worst province in South Viet Nam.

Politically, the "Vietnamization" strategy's objective is to achieve a stable situation and a stable administration. But the return of Thieu to the presidency has further aggravated the protracted political crisis in South Viet Nam. Nixon has succeeded in keeping Thieu as a tool for "Vietnamization," but he is unable to stabilize the situation. On the contrary, through the election the Thieu administration has proved to be ever weaker and ever more rotten, and is facing greater isolation and stronger protest. The opposition has further swollen its ranks as more and more groups and organizations combine action against the US and Thieu. The urban people's movement has been surging ahead with a greater impetus, at a quicker tempo and with a grimmer relentlessness than in any other previous periods.

Economically, Laird himself had to confirm that South Viet Nam was confronted with serious economic problems which could be solved only by continued US aid. The US war lord deliberately ignored this harsh reality when he extolled "Vietnamization" success. But he could not forget that it was because of this hard fact that he had had to fly to Saigon, and that it was because of the "progress of Vietnamization," a frantic pursuit of an ever receding objective, that he had had to undertake the fact-finding tour.

So the trip was just like an emergency call made by a bad physician. The patient was Nixon's "Vietnamization." If this strategy had been successful as Laird claimed, why should he have to come here?

Though a war secretary, Laird is a bad warrior but a master psy-warrior. In face of the US humiliating setbacks, Laird had had to hurry to Saigon to cheer up the quisling administration and give it some drug so that if in the near future the US had to bring home more troops and cut down aid it would not feel depressed.

All Laird's braggadocio in Saigon only aimed at upholding the commitment not to abandon US allies under whatever circumstances. Therefore, everybody understood the reason why Laird dared brag about success while he was standing in a hot place where the US "Vietnamization" strategy had been meeting with bitter failures.

SUCH was not the only purpose of Laird's trip to Saigon and of Moore's to Phnom Penh and Thailand. Only shortly after Laird's arrival in Saigon, a massive bombing campaign began in Laos, Cambodia and both North and South Viet Nam.

The fact that the US tried to persuade the Australians and New Zealanders to train Phnom Penh troops was also a sort of sedative for the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak clique in the face of deadly blows dealt at the Phnom Penh and Saigon troops by the Cambodian Liberation Army. And Laird's claim that so long as he is war secretary the air force activities will be carried on including the bombing of North Viet Nam if necessary, was but the whistling of someone who is afraid of the dark. Certainly Mr Nixon has not forgotten the lesson of the past. With an atrocious air war against the DRVN, Johnson had not been able to save his limited war and finally had had to leave the US political stage. By resuming the bombing of North Viet Nam, Nixon and Laird cannot at all improve the tragic plight of "Vietnamization." If US war lords had to rush to Saigon and Phnom Penh, it was because "Vietnamization" was obviously in dire distress. But Laird and Moore were truly bad physicians. It is impossible to extinguish a fire by pouring oil on it and to save a poisoned man by giving him more poison. As prolongation and expansion of the war had brought "Vietnamization" nearer to its doom, it was senseless to try to stave it off by further stepping up the war.

The Pentagon bosses are caught in a vicious circle.

THE only honourable alternative is to end the war, promptly bring all the American troops home and scrap the warlike client administration headed by Thieu. It is obvious that the White House and Pentagon still set their faces against this course of action. As Laird has stated, American combat troops will continue to stay in South Viet Nam as long as other US militarymen are in need of their support. As for Thieu, it is also clear that Washington is bent on using him as a war instrument and has promised to grant him more military and economic aid. This will lead them deeper into the tunnel with no end in sight, where a grave has been dug for Nixon's "Vietnamization" of the war, beside those of the special and limited wars waged by previous US presidents. If Nixon and Laird want to lie in it together with US good name, the Vietnamese and American peoples will let them do it, alone, without the latter.

THIEN LY

IN THE CITIES

o In protest against Thieu's repressive measures and his "inauguration," the Saigon General Association of Students on Oct. 28 denounced in a communiqué "the US-instigated Saigon administration's fascist policy directed against the people, especially the students, and against the nationwide opposition to the Oct. 3 presidential election' farce."

The Saigon students also urged Thieu to send relief to the Central Trung Bo provinces recently hit by a cyclone. They sent an open letter to Thieu and distributed leaflets demanding that the students' forced military training be cancelled to give them time to help the victims.

o Confronted with rising popular protest, the US and Thieu on Oct. 29 reinforced the defence of Saigon with 40,000 regular troops and field policemen. A "grey" (special) alert was given to all US troops in South Viet Nam. Thieu's soldiers and cops were allowed to "shoot dead any one not complying with their orders."

On the whole day of Oct. 29, US helicopters equipped with strong head lights continually circled above the Eastern sector of Saigon. A *UPI* correspondent remarked that this was indicative of direct US participation in the big security plan for Thieu's "inauguration."

o On Oct. 20, students from three faculties: odontology, medicine and pharmacy, of the Saigon University, came out against the "school militarization" system which they described as a great obstacle to the students, academic work, and reponsible for the death or maiming of many of them. If this system was not immediately abolished, the statement stressed, "unforeseable consequences would inevitably arise from the students' high feeling."

Youths, students and pupils in Saigon and other cities set up "relief committees" and combined action with religious bodies, women's organizations, etc. to collect money, clothing and send representatives to Central Trung Bo to visit the victims of storms.

o In their Oct. 26 issue, more than 30 Saigon papers denounced that Thieu not only showed no concern about the storm victims, but even took avantage of their suffering to stage "pacification" operations with a view to looting and concentrating them into "strategic hamlet."

o 51 Saigon MPs on Oct. 24 insisted that the "Lower House" should meet to discuss the problem of relief to Central Trung Bo storm victims. When the session was held, the 51 MPs strongly castigated Thieu's indifference towards them.

On Oct. 24, 22 Central Trung Bo MPs made public a statement denouncing that Thieu turned a blind eye to the plight of the people of their constituencies. On the same day, in a session of the "Lower House," a representative said: "The past four years of Thieu's rule have been 4 years of blood, tears and sufferings never experienced before in history."

o During October 1971, 141 issues of Saigon papers were seized by the Thieu rule. *Tin Sang* (Morning News) had 26 of its issues confiscated and *But Thep* (Steel Pen) 14. Most of the papers hit by the move had strongly denounced the US-Thieu rotten regime and their Oct. 3 "presidential election" farce.

"CHASE OUT THE U.S."

"US aggressors quit South VN!" These words not only spell out the most eager desire of not only all Vietnamese but also of South Vietnamese youths.

The sufferings and deaths the US invaders have been visiting on the people here have not spared the younger generations. These have been made food for powder under "Vietnamization."

Only by ousting the US can their right to live and freedom to realize their hopes be upheld, and peace and national independence achieved. Such conviction has turned them now as in the past into the shock troops and motive force of the urban movement against dictatorship, repression and terror, for US troop withdrawal and immediate peace...

In the last days of August 1971, together with the vigorous and fierce protests against the militarization of schools and Thieu's presidential election frauds, the South Viet Nam General Union of Students launched an "attack US vehicles, beat up US troops" campaign to avenge their school mates murdered by the US aggressors. The drive was mainly directed against the Americans but did not exclude Saigon bullying mercenaries and wicked police.

It has elicited warm response from large masses of youths, students, pupils and other sections of the people in Saigon, Hue, Da Nang, Qui Nhon, Nha Trang, etc. right after its launching.

Most remarkable have been their activities in Saigon city. In late October, an average of 7 US or satellite vehicles were set afire every two days as against one vehicle a day in the first weeks of the turmoil, and from 3 to 6 vehicles every two days in the following weeks. In a word, only between August 22 to October 30, 87 US and satellite military vehicles were burned down, and many GIs and mercenaries manhandled. The number of American vehicles assaulted in Saigon streets has been on the increase.

On September 18, on October 19 and 22, 6 US military vehicles were set on fire, and dozens of GIs and mercenaries thrashed in a single day. On October 19 alone, girl students in Saigon burned 6 US military cars or Thieu's police vehicles. With the people's support and assistance, students and pupils in Saigon have been active not only in the streets but also before or right inside the aggressors' bases.

As a result, the already sagging morale of American and satellite troops has deteriorated and at the same time the "security" boasted by the US-Thieu as an outcome of successful "pacification" has been bared as a thumping lie. Alarmed by the students' mounting unrest, Nguyen Van Thieu and Saigon police head Trang Si Tan have threatened to "execute on the spot attackers of American vehicles" and promised "rewards" those who would help with information to arrest them. But the bluster has only poured oil on the flames. The Saigon students declared that the number of US cars assaulted and GIs manhandled would grow in proportion to that of victimized students and pupils.

Instead of providing information to the Thieu clique, the Saigonese not only have been protecting the attackers but also taking part in their movement and helping their militants retreat in safety.

"The pupils and students will increase their raids on American establishments in Saigon, Cholon and Gia Dinh, assault the US aggressors in the streets and make Saigon a hot place for them," a student representative has stated. It was not only a warning but also an expression of the resolve of the youths in South Viet Nam cities to drive away the US aggressors and save their country. If Nixon stubbornly prolongs the war by means of "Vietnamization" and tries to maintain Thieu as his henchman, not only Saigon but also the whole of South Viet Nam from the countryside to the cities, will become seas of fire to reduce to ashes all the US aggressors and their agents, obliterate all sufferings and restore independence, peace for the country, and freedom and happiness for all the Vietnamese.

AI THI

GIs taking away the bodies of their mates in Saigon

à la nixon

Vietnamization = Americanization

RUMOUR has it that Thieu and Nixon are at cross purposes. It sounds surprising, doesn't it? But isn't the latter embarked on Vietnamization while the former is engaged in Americanization? Isn't Vietnamization the opposite of Americanization? Is Thieu engaged in Americanization? Certainly he is.

For instance, there are hippies in the US. So in Saigon there are hippies too, and they are tolerated by the law and protected by the regime. Mr Thieu even spent public money on a hippies festival presided over by his wife. Isn't that Americanization?

There are other examples, such as the "presidential election", which the Thieu regime had just left entirely in the hands of the US proconsul. The latter, out of a high sense of responsibility, shuttled between Washington and Saigon, between Duong Van Minh and Nguyen Cao Ky, using threats and bribes, trying to have a contested election, to put a "democratic" face on a travesty of democracy. To such an extent that in Saigon they said that not only was Bunker the returning officer but he was also an efficient campaigner of Thieu, more concerned about the latter's success than about the comfort of his old bones. Wasn't Thieu returned in an Americanized poll?

Now about the "inauguration" ceremony. It was held in the silence of desert streets, closed houses, with the people kept clear from the site, police watching on rooftops. Thieu began his speech with this address: "Dear fellow citizens, dear fellow-countrymen". But there were only Mr Connally, special envoy of the US President, Pak Jung Hi, Kitticachorn envoy and company, all US allies. Wasn't Thieu's swearing-in show an Americanized one?

So there is a contradiction in terms, between Vietnamization and Americanization. But as in everything there is also unity. Being an American, Mr Nixon has been striving to implement his "Vietnamization" in order to prolong the American war and maintain American neo-colonialist rule in South Viet Nam. Being a Vietnamese, Thieu has been doing his utmost to Americanize everything, to serve the American war, to preserve American domination in his own country and to continue in his office as an American agent.

So there is contradiction and unity at the same time between Americanization and Vietnamization. But the contradiction is only formal while the unity is essential. So Thieu and Nixon seem to be at cross purposes but in reality they are not. Because of this they must sink or swim together.

But like two drowning men clutching at each other, the more they cling to each other, the quicker they will sink into their watery grave.

DAC CONG

"VIETNAMIZATION" IS DOOMED TO FAILURE

(Continued)

BUT this figure has now been much smaller because of Thieu's bellicosity, dictatorship and arbitrariness. In the puppet "parliament" rigged up by the US to provide a legal basis for the Thieu administration more and more persons are urging Thieu to step down. Right in the Saigon government, many are also openly protesting Thieu and urging his resignation. The attitude of Nguyen Cao Ky, Vice-President of the puppet regime, during the recent "presidential election" campaign is a striking case in point.

It is clear that the plan of building a strong central puppet administration in Saigon as dreamt of by the US has failed to materialize. Instead, this administration has become more rotten, shaking and isolated before the mounting struggle of the people.

All the 4 sisters are women-guerillas

In the early months of this year, the struggle of the South Viet Nam people in the towns, especially in Saigon, has risen much higher than in 1970, with a mettle and at a tempo as never seen in any previous periods. The scale and force of the movement have grown continually and the forms of struggle have also become more deversified with slogans that meet the aspirations of all strata of the people. These slogans, ranging from low to high demands, are centered around these objectives: a better life and democratic liberties, opposition to the depraved US culture, urging the restoration of peace, US withdrawal and the overthrow of the bellicose and dictatorial puppet president Nguyen Van Thieu, exposing his traitorous acts and his fraudulent moves and US behind-the-scene manipulation in the puppet "presidential election." Most stirring has been the movement of pupils and students and the working masses under the theme "Tell our countrymen, and listen to our countrymen." The movement has spread from the towns to the suburban areas and many rural areas, in the form of meetings, teach-ins, discussions at public places and in many legal Saigon papers.

As the movement grows, it has drawn broader and broader sections of the people: workers, labouring people, pupils, students, intellectuals and patriotic personalities including those in the US-puppet administration.

The puppet army is the mainstay of the South Viet Nam puppet administration. Its weakening and disintegration on the various battlefronts in the recent past have caused the tumbling of the puppet administration at the grass roots. The area under the puppet administration's control is like a shrinking dried skin. Military defeats, political turmoil, economic and financial difficulties and corruption in the Thieu government have led to more serious dissension, conflict and dispute in the central puppet administration, causing great concern and embarrassment to Nixon. *Newsweek* on Oct. 20, 1970 likened the Saigon puppet administration to a sick baby surviving fits of rash, small pox and mumps. Now he may be even suffering from tuberculosis and a heart attack while his doctor is leaving.

It can be said that there has never been such an administration as the one in South Viet Nam at present which while conducting war is torn apart by so bitter strife among its leaders, so vehemently condemned by the press and so strongly hated by the people. Signs of disintegration have appeared in the South Viet Nam puppet administration. In given conditions the movement of the South Viet Nam urban population of various strata may eventually erupt into a big revolutionary tide which, coupled with other attacks, would topple the most stubborn and bellicose lackeys of the US and smash their administrative and war machinery.

The dying "pacification" program

The so-called "rural pacification" is regarded as one of the principal strategic measures of the "Vietnamization" of the war aimed primarily at controlling the people, disrupting the revolutionary bases, building the reactionary forces on the spot and beefing up the puppet army and administration. Now the puppet army is whittling away while the puppet administration is in complete disarray. This in itself is indication of the bankruptcy of this principal strategic measures of the US-puppets.

With extremely brutal and perfidious moves the enemy have been able to erect more posts and positions, temporarily hold under their control the people in some areas and draft a number of people into the puppet army. But in general, they have so far failed to attain any of its main objectives in spite of the fact that Nixon has spent more than one billion dollars for this project.

The fight between the patriotic forces and the enemy has been very fierce on what Abrams called his "second front." In 1969, the first year of "Vietnamization," more than 50 percent of US troops' military activities and more than 80 percent of puppet troops' activities were either to support or carry out the "pacification" program. In 1970, the extension of the war to Cambodia, apart from other strategic considerations, was also aimed at gaining a minimum breathing space of eight months for ensuring success to the "pacification" program in South Viet Nam.

Almost all the other military activities of the US-puppets were intended to "relocate" the population and set up "strategic hamlets." In the early months of 1971, "pacification" went on in many places. In the plains of Central Viet Nam and the High Plateaux the enemy obviously failed in their scheme to dislodge the patriotic armed forces and revolutionary bases from the people. Displaying high combativeness and tenacity, the people and their patriotic forces have surmounted all difficulties and hardships and coordinated their fight against the enemy in all the three strategic regions. All the US, Saigon and Pak Jung Hi troops have had a hard time coping with the guerilla war which is fast developing right in the areas not long before rated as "pacified" by the enemy. As can be expected, the "pacification" plans have never been completed (even though on paper) on schedule in spite of a huge electronic computer system.

According to US "pacification" experts, having failed in the objectives set for the first stage of the "pacification" program, the enemy have since July 1970 launched a supplementary campaign called "special pacification" which was to be completed in October 1970. But at a conference at Cape Saint Jacques, the US decided to extend it for another four months under a new name — "1970 supplementary pacification" plan — slated to last till by February 1971. The first stage of their "pacification" was thus extended for 8 months (July 1970 — February 1971). Now, even the top "pacification" experts in Saigon admitted that the initiative had always belonged to the adversary.

Specially, since the 1970-1971 dry season and in the first six months of 1971, many top-ranking US and puppet officials had to back down on their optimistic appraisals and complained that security is decreasing seriously.

In the Mekong River Delta, the US-puppets have failed to quench the guerilla movement which is spreading up to their last strongholds in many outlying districts of Saigon. In particular, the biggest and longest operation conducted by the US-puppets in the U Minh jungle area, a most important operation for the whole "pacification" plan in the Mekong River Delta in the past months, has turned out to be their bloodiest venture. In 130 days, the patriotic forces and people in Rach Gia and Ca Mau put out of combat nearly 7,500 enemy, overran or caused heavy losses to 12 enemy regimental or battalion HQs, shot down or destroyed on the ground 60 aircraft, sank or set ablaze 120 vessels.

The movement to wipe out cruel enemy agents, break their control and encircle enemy posts and positions has expanded unceasingly. To the great frustration of the enemy, the "Viet Cong infrastructure" has, in general, remained firm and drawn new force.

Collective desertions and mutinies have taken place in all the four army corps areas of the enemy: 80,000 desertions of puppet troops between January and July 1971. Many puppet soldiers took anti-war actions, protesting against "pacification" operations, refused to carry out combat orders and even inflicted injuries on themselves to avoid being sent to Laos or Cambodia. Meanwhile, the families of puppet soldiers stepped up political agitation among enemy ranks, thus hastening the disintegration and collapse of the Saigon puppet army.

In the past six months, in the Fifth Interzone alone, more than 18,000 puppet soldiers deserted and almost all "civil guards" in Quang Da refused to take up guard duty. Most of the "civil guards" along Highway One and in the vicinity of towns and district towns did not turn up.

In Western Nam Bo more than 7,000 puppet troops deserted. More than 10,000 "civil guards" threw away their guns and returned to their villages. More than 20,000 puppet soldiers and officers took anti-war actions. 10 battalions and 18 companies and platoons staged collective anti-war actions, and 30 posts were abandoned. During the enemy operation in the U Minh jungle area, hundreds of revolts took place, one of them involving several battalions.

The enemy admitted that so far their "territorial forces" are unable to cope with the people's war at the grass roots. These forces, already weak, have become still weaker when forced to fill the gap in the puppet main-force units. That is why, the US-puppets had to bring many regular units back from the border areas to provide support for the "pacification" program. Obviously, this program is facing an ever bigger danger from within and without.

The progress on the "pacification" front so loudly vaunted by the enemy has indeed been very poor. Now the enemy situation on this front has become even more critical. This front which the enemy have taken so much pain and spent so vast material resources to build is actually a place where the South Viet Nam people have taught them the bitterest lessons, and will certainly dash all their hopes of "pacification."

The United States in turmoil

Under Johnson, the United States could be pictured as follows: an administration rent by dissension, the disenchanted and indignant war-weary masses staging big demonstrations demanding an end to the US criminal and aggressive war in Viet Nam. The press was full of criticism of the Pentagon and White House warmongers. Taking over the presidency from Johnson in such conditions, Nixon undertook in the domestic affairs, first of all, to unite the American people, assuage the anti-war movement while increasing repression as the first step to ease off the political, economic and social situation in the US. The highest goal he set for himself was to ensure victory for the Republican Party and himself in the 1970 congressional election thence to win absolute majority in the 1972 election and secure another term as President of the United States.

Nixon has resorted to very cunning manoeuvres to make the American people accept the war of aggression in Viet Nam and his "Vietnamization" plan. On the one hand, he has not ceased to prolong and expand the war in Indochina while withdrawing by dribblets part of the US troops. On the other hand, he whipped up a noisy psywar campaign to give the false impression that the United States is withdrawing from this war. He made extensive travels and gave a host of talks, held one press conference after another to hawk his decision on draft deferment in the last two months of 1969 and the troops withdrawals. Nixon thought that by so doing he could mask his military venture in Cambodia, his naked invasion of Southern Laos, his sinister design to maintain in power his henchman in South Viet Nam — the militarist dictator Nguyen Van Thieu — and leave indefinitely a contingent of US troops in South Viet Nam to join the puppet troops in perpetrating monstrous crimes against the people of Indochina.

The already precarious life of the labouring masses in America has been rendered more miserable still by the aggressive war against Viet Nam the bitter consequences of which are acutely felt in the economic and social life. Johnson himself admitted in 1964 that thirty three million Americans were in the category of the poor who had more and more difficult times. Social evils are rampant. The towns are on the decline and the outskirts are poorer and poorer. By increasing the burden of war on the shoulders of the American people, how can Nixon avoid the storm of their anger? This finds a concentrated expression in the movement against the aggressive war in Viet Nam, which has over recent days expanded widely, embracing broader social bases than ever known in the American history and also in the history of aggression of any imperialist country. The American people are angry not only because the Viet Nam war has pushed their country into a serious and all-round crisis in the military, political, economic, financial and monetary fields, but also because it has sunk the image of their country before the world to the lowest in its 200-year-old history. What Nixon and Co. fear most is the moral crisis and the credibility gap of the American masses and right in the American political circles faced with the reactionary and rotten nature of the US political and social regime and the whole domestic and foreign policies of the ruling circles at present.

Here are some of the most striking illustrations:

Over recent years, the strike movement of US workers has grown in tempo, scope and intensity with coordination of actions across the country. The strike of the northeastern coast longshoremen is one of the longest in US history. Due to the war of aggression against Viet Nam, unemployment under Nixon has reached astronomic dimensions, affecting 6 per cent of the toiling masses. Together with the devaluation of the dollar and the cost of living having doubled compared with that under Johnson, it cannot but lead to a more determined struggle of the American workers.

The black people only account for 11 per cent of the US population, but black casualties in South Viet Nam make up 25 per cent of the total US casualties. Back home, they suffer the most from racism, poverty, oppression and exploitation during the current crisis in the USA. It is no accident that, as reported in the US press, many Black GIs in Viet Nam had hidden and secretly shipped home their weapons for the liberation fight of their own folks. They have risen up in arms in nearly 40 cities, and their struggle continues to intensify.

The students have become one of the mightiest forces in the USA against the war of aggression, rallied in their nation-wide organizations. Under Nixon, 33 per cent of the students have been called up as against 5 per cent formerly according to the 1969 statistics. The students' movement has spread to all universities and is reaching secondary schools to form the nucleus of the ever more violent anti-war actions of the young Americans. The protesters have held high slogans declaring that they had rather accept jail than go to Viet Nam.

The broad movement of the American people against the Viet Nam war had a very strong impact on the American soldiers who are shedding their blood and enduring all sorts of privations and dangers in Viet Nam only for the interests of the US monopolies. Together with the struggle of other strata of the American people, the anti-war movement among US soldiers has spread quickly and powerfully and is gradually becoming a new, most sustained and biggest movement in America's history and right on the Viet Nam battlefield.

The movement reached its climax in October and November 1969, surpassing by far the anti-war campaign in Johnson's time. In 1970, following the US armed incursion into Cambodia, the anti-war high tides in May, June and July for the first time caused open schisms in the Nixon administration, and forced it to withdraw all its troops from Cambodia at the set date. After many months of bitter discussion, the US Congress decided to repeal the "Tonkin Gulf" resolution, to bar the sending of US troops back to Cambodia and Laos and to stop funds for the activities of the satellite troops in three countries (except those of the Saigon troops along the border). In 1971, following the Highway 9—Southern Laos debacle, the anti-war movement saw a new development which is the combination of big-scale actions with daily struggles. American servicemen, officers included, at home and in many American military bases like Britain, West Germany, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea, held many demonstrations and made it a point of honor to participate in the courageous action of the broad masses at home against Nixon's dirty aggressive war in Viet Nam. The US rulers' fascist nature has been exposed and the popular movement took bigger and bigger dimensions following Nixon's sending a large repressive force of 15,000 police, marines and national guards supported by tanks and helicopters to crack down on demonstrating Americans and put in jail 10,000 of them during the last Spring Offensive.

(To be continued)

CUU LONG

IN October 1971, with combined tactical methods of the people's war, the three armed services of PLAF attacked the enemy without respite in all their defence lines, harassing their outer perimeter.

Remarkably, the harmoniously co-ordinated actions of the army and people in East Nam Bo and those in the Cambodian border area posed a serious threat to the US-Saigon defensive position and rendered unsafe strategic Highway 22. The adversary mobilized tens of thousands of troops of their airborne Division, Infantry Division 18, Army Columns 43, 49, 50... to cope with the patriotic forces on the Highway 22 battlefield (Tay Ninh province, North-West Saigon), but they suffered heavy losses. The PLAF infantry, artillery and anti-aircraft units in Tay Ninh battered the enemy inside many important bases and also the forces fanning out to clear main communication lines.

The US artillery base in Xa Mat not only failed to support the Saigon troops but also came under continuous attack and had to withdraw. Many US units there opposed war and disobeyed raiding orders, to avoid clashes with the Liberation forces. In October alone, over 2,200 adverse troops including some 50 GIs were wiped out. Army Column 50 and ten battalions of Saigon infantry were badly mauled, 145 military vehicles, one-third of

them tanks and other armoured cars destroyed, and 33 aircraft downed. A series of airports and important positions or bases along Highways 13 and 15 were repeatedly assailed. In the surroundings of Bien Hoa province capital alone, from 3 to 13 October, the PLAF mounted violent onsets on nearly 20 bases including the Bien Hoa airbase, the CP of Saigon Para-Brigade 3 and the Tan Uyen military sub-sector.

Fighting not only took place in North and North-West of Saigon, but also in Ba Ria and Long Khanh provinces and South-East of Saigon. On the Highway 9 defence perimeter, North Quang Tri, following the Saigon troops' bitter reverses on Hill 544 ("Fuller" Base), in Ba Ho and Dong Toan, Saigon Marine units and Infantry Division One had to constantly face offensives by the army and people in the Tri-Thien delta region. The adversary suffered over 200 casualties around "Fuller" base in the first half of October.

Under PLAF increasing pressure the US-Saigon quislings had to deploy almost all Infantry Division 22 and mobile forces in the Second Tactical Zone to defend the defence line, west of Highway 14 (High Plateaux), but they had to pay a heavy toll. Also in the first half of October, the guerillas and regional army knocked out 240 adverse men, wrecked 30 military vehicles including 18 tanks and other armoured cars.

In West Nam Bo, following the beating off by the U Minh area army and people of the enemy protracted "pacification" operation, guerilla warfare has been on the upsurge in all parts. Despite active supports from US aircraft and artillery, many Saigon units were pinned down south of the area and were seriously battered. In a single night battle on October 13, the Ca Mau PLAF charged 3 positions of Saigon Regiment 32, putting out of action 2 companies and destroying 6 heavy guns.

The movement against "pacification" was in full swing in the Mekong Delta and South Trung Bo. In Tra Vinh (Mekong Delta) in the first 10 days of October nearly 30,000 participations were recorded in uprisings in 27 villages and 3 district capitals. They pulled down again and again 27 "strategic hamlets." In My Tho province, the guerilla and regional troops assaulted 34 posts, assisted 3,000 people in rebellions and in punishing wicked thugs, breaking the enemy grip and regaining control of the countryside. In the delta provinces of South Trung Bo, the guerillas and regional forces staged violent assaults on the US-Saigon coercive machine, captured more than 1,400 agents, 100 of them owing blood debts to the people, and over 100 GIs and mercenaries, and assisted the people in demolishing a series of "strategic hamlets" and concentration centres. The US-Saigon command had to send many rescue parties consisting of mobile and regular units but they were heavily decimated. In a surprise attack on the night of October 16, 1971, the PLAF in Can Tho province (West Nam Bo) put out of combat Battalion 4 (Regiment 16, Division 9) while in its task of supporting the "pacification" agents. In an ambush the regional forces in Soc Trang province did short work of a Saigon detachment comprising one company and three platoons rushed to the rescue of the regional "pacification" forces. The drive against wicked thugs and enemy oppression has also been spreading to various cities and towns. Right in Da Nang city, in the first 10 days of October, the self-defence armed forces fought the enemy in the streets, killed or wounded 210 police agents and US and Saigon officers, wrecked 17 military vehicles and sank a motorlaunch.

The US-Saigon "pacification" plan has been meeting ever more bitter failure. As revealed by the Saigon daily *Tin Sang* (Morning News) on October 10, "the control of South Vietnamese villages and hamlets by the Saigon government has been narrowed down everywhere...", "and the pacification program has been brought to a near standstill for 3 months now."

T.H.

For Our Beloved Fatherland

• On October 30, 1971, the Association of Vietnamese residents in Paris ridiculed in a communiqué the Nguyen Van Thieu's "inauguration" farce in Saigon.

"Crowning the colossal fraud of Thieu's one-man election on October 3", the statement pointed out, "this ludicrous farce cannot cover up the heavy political failure of the United States and Nguyen Van Thieu in the move." "More then ever" it went on, "we think that the only reasonable solution is that the Nixon administration should stop its "Vietnamization," rapidly withdraw all its troops from South Viet Nam, cease all support to Nguyen Van Thieu and give a serious response to the seven-point peace plan of the PRG of the RSVN in order to achieve peace in a short time."

o The Second Congress of the Association of Vietnamese Residents in France opened on November 13, 1971 in Paris. On this occasion, Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and Chairman of the Advisory Council of the South Viet Nam Provisional Revolutionary Government has sent a message of greeting to the gathering.

o On the DRVN Independence Day, September 2, 1971 patriotic Vietnamese residents in Britain held a function attended by residents from all parts of the country. The meeting passed a resolution condemning the US administration for prolonging its aggressive war in South Viet Nam, turning down the seven points conform to sentiment and reason put forward by the South Viet Nam's Provisional Revolutionary Government, and trying to maintain their reactionary quisling Nguyen Van Thieu to carry on its "Vietnamization" and massacres of South Vietnamese.

The attendants contributed 100 pounds to the fund of national salvation against US aggression.

o On August 22, 1971, the Viet Nam Buddhists' Federation in Europe and the Overseas Buddhists' Association (French section) released a strong protest against the savage repression by the Saigon administration against the South Vietnamese Buddhist students and pupils. It denounced to world opinion the scheme of the US government and the client Nguyen Van Thieu administration to crush the Buddhist students drive and other mass movements for independence and peace in South Viet Nam.

o The review *Hon Kem* of the South Vietnamese students' organization in West Germany in its special issue of March 1971 denounced Saigon continued victimization through its embassy in Bonn of South Viernamese students in that country, under the form of a second recall of students. This time it was directed against Father Luu Hong Khanh, a third-year student of theology and social action at München University. He was compelled to give up his studies under the charge of activities "harmful to the state." Formerly, in July 1971 the Saigon embassy in Bonn had sent home two students for "conscription" although they had not finished their education.

The recent measure against a priest, a student of theology "for special reasons" was part of a series of reprisals by the Saigon administration against overseas students for their patriotic activities.

To counter these, the Saigon administration has many a time cut off money transfer and scholarship, withdrawn passports and called back home students for military service.

Such moves have bared to South Vietnamese students in West Germany the true colours of the present US - installed administration, and brought them closer together to pool their efforts and contribute to the national resistance against US aggression.

In Our Liberated Zone

FOLLOWING LE THI HONG GAM'S EXAMPLE

• Concerning the "follow PLAF Heroine Le Thi Hong Gam's example," emulation drive, the delegate of Infantry Unit X. Political Section in Eastern Nam Bo stated: "Hong Gam's example is a lesson for every cadre and combatant in the unit. She is a model to all of us."

According to the Dong Xoai Delegation Political Commissar, in his unit, "the movement to train officers and men to successfully face enemy infantry, armoured troops and air force and any enemy tactics had made much progress. In the near future, it would develop all the stronger as they had learned useful and invaluable lessons from Le Thi Hong Gam's example."

• Speaking at a study session to learn from Heroine Le Thi Hong Gam, the Delegate of Dau Tieng (North Gia Dinh) people's regional troops stressed: "After learning from Heroine Le Thi Hong Gam's example, the Dau Tieng district armed forces will further uphold revolutionary heroism and will—shoulder to shoulder with the Gia Dinh people and armed forces—contribute to thwart the US-Saigon "pacification" plan.

• In similar meetings, the cadres and combatants of the Saigon 5th Group expressed their determination to live up to the mention by the NFL Central Committee and the PRG of the RSVN: "Monolithic unity,—Unshakable faithfulness—Indomitable courage—Matchless skill."

• Stimulated by Le Thi Hong Gam's example, 30,000 people in Western and Central Trung Bo pulled down concentration areas and "strategic hamlets" and came back to the liberated areas to take part in the building of combat villages and increasing production.

o Many young people in Chau Thanh and Tan Uyen districts (Thu Dau Mot), Vinh Thuan district (Rach Gia), Dam Doi and Cai Nuoc districts (Ca Mau), Tuy Hoa district (Phu Yen) enthusiastically joined the PLAF. In many areas, parents asked the village or district People's Revolutionary Committees to enlist their under age sons.

o In October 1971, 2,200 people left the concentration areas of Ben Tre and returned to their villages to resume production and the fighting. They set up scores of kilometres of barricade, dug 152 spike traps, built tens of defensive fields with 20,000 spikes and hundreds of mines and grenades to guard crops against enemy sweeps.

o In October, the people's administration in Duyen Hai district (Ca Mau) sent many sanitarians to areas mopped-up by the enemy.

In Vinh Long, militants were dispatched to newly liberated villages to help the population build schools and classrooms for the 1971-1972 school-year.

o Shock song and dance ensembles in Ben Tre, Vinh Long, Can Tho provinces infiltrated into contested areas and enemy-controlled areas to give performances. In three months, the Cuu Long troupe (Vinh Long) performed for 150,000 attendances.

THE DRVN IN BRIEF

o Recently the Standing Committee of the DRVN met under its Chairman Truong Chinh.

1) The Committee heard a report by Acting Minister of Public Health Vu Van Can on medical work during the past 25 years and its future orientation and tasks, and the views on the same subject of the Committee for Cultural and Social Affairs of the National Assembly expressed by its Chairman Tran Duy Hung.

2) On the proposal of its Chairman, the Committee has appointed judges and alternate judges of the Supreme People's Court.

Hai Phong youths in physical training, ready to join the Army

3) On the proposal of the Government Council, the Committee has appointed a plenipotentiary ambassador to a foreign country.

4) The Committee has also decided on some matters relating to the work of the Supreme People's Court.

o From October 24 to 31, 1971, the US aggressors bombed, shelled and strafed villages north of the 17th parallel in the demilitarized zone and villages in western Quang Binh province as well as several places in Dien Bien district, Lai Chau province.

The DRVN Foreign Ministry has strongly condemned such acts of war by the US aggressors in statements urging that they immediately stop all encroachments upon the DRVN sovereignty and security.

o Recently, the 3rd Congress of representatives of the Haiphong Viet Nam Fatherland Front has met to review the Front achievements in the past 3 years and work out the orientation and tasks of the Front for the next 3 years.

o In answer to the invitation by the Swedish Left Women's Union, a delegation of the Viet Nam Women's Union led by Mrs Vo Thi The, Central Committee member, arrived in Stockholm on October 29, 1971. The host organization called a welcome mass meeting.

o As relief to their fellow-countrymen in Central Trung Bo hit by the recent typhoon, managers and workers at the March Eight Weaving Mill (Hanoi) have launched an emulation drive to boost production by another million metres on top of the three million already fixed.

o In Hanoi, the Viet Nam - Japan Friendship Association and the Committee for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries have opened an exhibition on the struggle put up by the Japanese people in support of Viet Nam against US aggression.

Learning from the newly awarded heroic units and heroes of the people's armed forces in both North and South, the armed forces in almost all provinces, various arms and services of the Viet Nam People's Army and the militia of factories, construction sites, offices, schools, street quarters... are feverishly improving their technical and tactical level and combat preparedness.

In particular, after discussions on the thorough devotion to the revolution and the staunch and courageous fighting will of heroine Le Thi Hong Gam, combatants convalescing at Rest home X. have promised to try to rapidly recover and reeducate themselves into readiness to return to action.

On Cambodia's 18th National Day

KHMER REVOLUTION IN THE UPSWING

ON November 9, 1953, the Cambodian people recovered independence after nearly a century of struggle against the French colonialists.

Eversince, the Kingdom of Cambodia under the leadership of Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, had been regarded as a "peace oasis." For 16 years on end the valiant and talented Cambodian people had been doing their utmost to defend their national independence and build their country, and had recorded signal results.

Independent, peaceful and neutralist Cambodia had been for years the Cambodian people's pride and at the same time an important factor of the success of the anti-US effort of the Indochinese and South-East Asian peoples.

On March 18, 1970, the US imperialist engineered an anti-revolutionary coup d'état against Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and installed the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak client administration, as the peak of a series of US manoeuvres against Cambodia's independence, peace and neutrality, to turn it into a new-type colony and military base for Nixon's aggression against South Viet Nam, Laos and South-East Asia.

But the US imperialists miscalculated. Responding to the historic March 23, 1970 appeal for national salvation of Head of State Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian people, millions as one man, rose up in arms against them. After that, the National United Front of Kampuchia and the Royal Government of the National Union of Cambodia came into being. Under the glorious national salvation banner of NUFK and RGNUC, the Khmer people's resistance movement has been rising powerfully. The Cambodian patriotic forces have wiped out and disbanded tens of thousands of adverse troops, liberated hundreds of villages and hamlets, forced the enemy to withdraw from a series of positions, bringing the Lon Nol-Sirik Matak administration nearer to complete collapse.

On April 30, 1970, to save his Cambodian agents, Nixon threw nearly 100,000 GIs, Saigon troops and Thai mercenaries into an invasion of Cambodia, but he harvested more setbacks. The Cambodian army and people valiantly intercepted the aggressors and knocked out more than 12,000 GIs, and compelled Nixon to pull out the American troops from Cambodia.

Since then, constantly improving their winning position and combat initiative, the Khmer army and people have been dealing hard blows at the adversary, forcing them to dig in a number of cities, province and district capitals. According to still incomplete figures, only since the anti-revolutionary coup d'etat, the Cambodian patriotic forces have put out of combat nearly 200,000 adverse men including nearly 70,000 American and Saigon troops, shot down or destroyed nearly 1,000 aircraft, captured or wrecked hundreds of thousands of tons of weapons and other war materials.

The liberated zone has been expanded to eight tenths of the Cambodian territory with over 5 million inhabitants. The revolutionary administration of various levels elected by the people has been successfully implementing the NUFL political program in the economic, military, cultural, social... fields. In the international arena, the RGNUC has been recognized by 28 countries shortly after its founding. The Cambodian people and government delegations have visited many countries and taken part in several international conferences. The RGNUC won a very dramatic gain at the Conference of Heads of Non-Aligned Countries in Lusaka in September 1970. Delegates from 21 countries participating in the Conference admitted the RGNUC delegation as the sole legal and genuine representatives of the Khmer people to their gathering.

The movement of support for the Khmer people's just struggle has been mounting throughout the world. Meetings, demonstrations and weeks of solidarity with the Cambodian and Indochinese peoples have been held in many countries from Asia to Europe, from Africa to Latin America and even in the US. The International Conference in Support for the Lao People held in Cairo in May 1970, decided to hold a week of solidarity with the Cambodian people's resistance against the US imperialist aggressors. Many state leaders and world organizations have recently issued statements urging a prompt, total and unconditional pull-out of American and satellite troops, military and civilian advisers and personnel from Cambodia.

The all-sided successes recorded by the brother Cambodian people under the NUFK leadership headed by Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the RGNUC with Samdech Penn Nouth as Premier, have driven the US aggressors and Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique into a losing position compounded by military setbacks, diplomatic isolation, political unrest and complete economic collapse.

Reporting on Cambodia's situation, the *Far Eastern Economic Review* made known on September 4 that the Cambodian government (Lon Nol — Sirik Matak clique — *Ed.*) was now split into numerous factions. *AFP* revealed on March 3, 1971 that "never Cambodia's economy (in not yet liberated areas — *Ed.*) has been in such a plight as at present. Industry is utterly downgrading, rubber plantations no longer exist, inflation is serious, the budget is in deficit, and national reserve is nil. In Phnom Penh, everybody is aware that on the other side (liberated areas — *Ed.*), the price of a kilo of pork is only 60 riels and that of a kilo of rice between 5 and 6 riels, but on this side, a kilo of meat costs 200 riels and that of rice 20 riels..."

AS a close comrade-in-arms and neighbour, the South Vietnamese people hail the brother Cambodian people's big gains as an effective support and strong encouragement for their own war of resistance against the US aggressors for national salvation. In its very start, the anti-US pro-national salvation struggle of the South Vietnamese people has won the warm support from Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and the Khmer people.

Eversince, the friendly relations, militant solidarity and mutual support and assistance between the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples have been consolidated and strengthened day by day. The South Vietnamese people rejoice at the growth of the militant solidarity between the three Indochinese peoples, and sincerely thank the brother Cambodian and Lao peoples for their heartfelt cooperation and assistance. Faithful to the common Declaration of the Indochinese People's Summit Conference, the South Vietnamese people are resolved to further strengthen their unity with the brother Khmer and Lao peoples to completely defeat the US imperialist aggressors and their stooges, for each country's national liberation cause, for peace and common prosperity of the Indochinese peninsula.

On the 18th National Day of the Kingdom of Cambodia, we warmly hail the extraordinary progress of the Khmer revolution, the NUFK, the RGNUC, Samdech Head of State Norodom Sihanouk and Samdech Premier Penn Nouth, great friends of the South Vietnamese people. The South Vietnamese people sincerely wish the brother Khmer people ever greater successes in the fight against the US aggressors and Lon Nol — Sirik Matak hirelings and for the eventual construction of an independent, peaceful, neutralist, democratic, reunified and prosperous Cambodia.

Cambodian Liberation fighters exchanging experiences in fighting

LAOS — OVER 7,000 ADVERSE CASUALTIES IN RAINY SEASON

AFTER their bitter reverses in the recent dry season, the US and its quislings in Laos have been trying to consolidate the Vientiane army, bring up to strength and beef up their "special forces" and commit more battalions of Thai mercenaries to the stepped up and expanded aggressive war against Laos, under the Nixon doctrine.

Taking advantage of the rainy season, they hurled dozens of battalions under the direct command of American advisers and Saigon officers into forays, into the liberated areas in the Plain of Jars, Savannakhet, Bolovens... Hundreds of aircraft including strategic B-52s to supply support to the raiders, frenziedly bombed and strafed those places, perpetrating savage crimes against the Lao people.

The Lao army and people put up a fierce resistance and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy and compelled them to scatter their forces. Army Columns 21 and 23, the main shock forces of Vang Pao bandits also suffered serious casualties and were repelled over 20km far behind lines.

In August 1971, 50 adverse counter-attacks on Pha Len district capital (Savannakhet province) were all beaten off. The attacking prongs against Saravane were stopped dead. The Lao patriotic forces made deep thrusts into, and heavily damaged, the areas around Sino base and close to Se Bang Hieng, behind their defence perimeter, wiped out many adverse men and destroyed a big quantity of war materials. Sala Phou Khoun, the operation's springboard, also came under fire. The raid was caught in bog. The Lao army and people were active throughout the season and proved very efficient. On the US-Saigon onset against Paksong district capital (Bolovens High Plateaux), *UPI* revealed on September 20 that virtually a half of the troop strength deployed into the opreration were killed, wounded or reported missing.

According to still incomplete figures, in the months of the 1971 rainy season, the Lao army and people put out of action more than 7,000 enemy soldiers, depleted 4 army columns CPs, over 10 battalions and dozens of companies, wrecked 25 military vehicles and nearly 2,000 firearms of various types, downed 49 aircraft, destroyed many storages, barracks, bridges and culverts, military boats and motor-launches...

Together with the gains of the dry season, those of the rainy season were smarting blows at Nixon's efforts to prolong and expand the war.

THE THIRD WORLD in effervescence

o In the first half of September, the Palestinian guerillas made 25 attacks on the Israeli aggressors at Gaza, killing a great number of them and destroying many heavy tanks and military vehicles. On September 24, they blew up (the third time within two months) a pipe-line of the US Aramco oil corporation causing heavy damage.

o In 508 onsets mounted since August 1, 1971 on the cities of Bissau and Bafata, the patriotic forces of Guinea (Bissau) inflicted 735 casualties on the Portuguese troops, downed 5 aircraft, sank 28 vessels and destroyed or damaged over 90 vehicles.

o The actions launched by the Mozambique guerillas from June to mid-July 1971 compelled the enemy to evacuate 6 posts in Cabo Delcado province. Between mid-July and end August, the patriotic forces put out of action 226 enemy men including a major.

o In the first half of 1971, the people's armed forces in North Kalimantan foiled all the enemy attempts to "encircle and clear" the patriots' resistance base and successfully counter attacked the enemy on the Biawak Highway.

o The Dopha liberation forces grounded an enemy plane near Oman. Previously, in the same locality they had destroyed an observation post and a broadcasting station.

o Between September 24 and October 5, the patriotic armed forces in South west Africa waylaid many enemy convoys at Ocarajio and Caprivi. killing 71 men and destroying 5 vehicles.

o From September 15 to October 20, 1971, the Thai guerillas repreatedly hammered at enemy positions in Udon and Phitsanulok (North Thailand), putting out of action 50 enemy troops, wrecking an airplane and many armoured carriers.

o On October 25, the patriotic forces in the Philippines wiped out an enemy 22-strong patrol on the Manila Magsaysay road. In Manila, on October 24, 30,000 people including youths, students and workers, held a demonstration during which President Marcos was burnt in effigy in protest against his collusion with the US to establish a fascist regime in the Philippines and impoverish the toiling people.

FREE ANGELA DAVIS !

OVER a year ago, on October 13,1970, the FBI arrested Angela Davis, a 26-year old Black girl and a professor of philosophy at New York University under charges of

"Having given a gun to Jonathan Jackson, George Jackson's brother, to be used in an attempt to help escape the latter and the "Soledad Brothers" brought to trial on August 8, 1970 at San Rafael."

Since long, the FBI had blacklisted Angela Davis and been shadowing her because she was an intimate friend of George Jackson.

Angela Davis was born into a Black family in Alabama, one of the states notorious for racial discrimination. She had witnessed the injustices and cruelties of apartheid in the United States. Four of her girl friends had been killed when White racists hurled bombs at a church reserved for Black people.

In the autumn of 1969, Angela Davis became a militant when the Council of Universities, California, wrote her name off the list of professors because she was a Black girl and a Communist. However, with the support of students and professors, she still had a contract for teaching. But the reactionary university circles in the United States reneged on their promise to hire her at the beginning of the academic year.

Undaunted by brutal power and violence, Angela Davis continued to militate against the injustices of the American society and racial discrimination and for the Black people's right to equality.

When she was arrested, she vigorously protested: "I am arrested because I am a Communist, a revolutionary who fights together with millions of oppressed people in the world to remove all obstacles on the road to freedom... The administration charges me with a crime I have not committed in an attempt to silence me and halt my combat at my people's side."

From her jail, Angela Davis has written many articles against fascism in the United States, calling on the Black and enlightened White people as well as the labouring people in the country to join in the cruisade against racial discrimination and fascism in the United States. She has several times protested the obdurate US administration's prolonging and extending the criminal aggressive war in Viet Nam and Indochina which brings only evils to the American people.

In essence, the Angela Davis case is but a typical example of hideous segregation in the United States. There the Black people who account for 10 per cent of the total population are victims of hunger, misery, unemployment and an extremely reactionary policy of racial discrimination.

Apart from this case, there has been so much savage victimization against other black leaders like Malcon X., Martin Luther King, Fread Hamton, Bobby Hutton. Political minded people like George Jackson, Huey Newton, Bobby Seal, Elridge Cleaver, Angela Davis have been struck by arbitrary verdicts of the White fascist administration.

According to figures officially released, there are at present two million and a half people arrested and jailed, most of them Black people.

For them, there is but the slimmest hope of freedom. Thus, George Jackson was condemned by the California court to one year's imprisonment for a theft of 70 dollars, but the US authorities had put in his record a host of charges: robbery, gambling, marijuana traffic, beggary, vagrancy, unemployment, carriage of a gun for purpose of murder. After purging his sentence, he was jailed for another 11 years and on August 21 last he was assassinated by the White racists in San Quentin prison. Another Black inmate of the same jail revealed that "once there you lose all human value and a man is only worth 35 cents—the price of a packet of cigarettes."

The murder of George Jackson, the bloody repression in Ithaca prison, the illegal arrest of Angela Davis constitute most concrete evidence of numberless crimes engineered by an extremely reactionary policy of apartheid in the United States. The lives of Angela Davis and so many other Black

militants in US jails are being gravely threatened daily, even hourly.

In face of violent opposition from progressives in the United States and abroad, the US authorities have several times postponed the trial of this courageous Black militant, but they have not given up their dark scheme against her and still refuse to free her.

The Angela Davis case has been inflaming opinion in many countries. A wave of endignation has been surging in the United States and many other countries for her release. Out of friendship with the American progressives and comradeship-in-arms against US imperialism headed by the bellicose Nixon clique. The South Vietnamese people strongly condemn the arrests, terrorist acts and jail sentences of the US authorities against the anti-war American progressive people, Black and coloured people in the United States.

Together with progressive opinion in the world, the South Vietnamese people demand that the California court immediately set at liberty Angela Davis and other Black militants still in jail.

The just cause of the Black people in the United States will certainly triumph.

KHANH KIM

o The Soviet Union-GDR joint communiqué released on November 1, 1971 during the visit of L.I. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU, to the GDR "strongly condemned continued US aggression against Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia", "expressed great solidarity" with their struggle, and "demanded complete withdrawal of US troops from Indochina."

o At a meeting held on October 30 in Paris, the Permanent Committee of the Stockholm conference on Viet Nam, the representatives of 40 peace organizations in France and the representatives of the American people's movement against the Viet Nam war unanimously passed a resolution calling for the convening in February 1972 in Paris of an international conference to work out a common program of action of the world's peoples for the total pull out of US troops from Indochina and ending of all support to the US client administrations on the peninsula.

o Many social-democratic MPs in Norway including Knut Frydenlund, head of the Parliament committee, and Gattorm Hausen, leader of the social-demomocratic MPs groups in Parliament declared for the PRG seven points and wished "the Vietnamese people greater successes in their national liberation struggle."

o Returns of a public poll (to be sent to Nixon) held on November 2, 1971 in Pittsfield, showed that the overwhelming majority of the citizens of that city were for an end to the Viet Nam war and immediate pullout of all GIs from Indochina.

o On behalf of the Unified Methodist Church in New York, on November 1, two priests, Lloyd C. Wicke and Duddley Ward, handed to the PRG delegation at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam, a statement from the Secretariat of the Episcopate and a resolution of the Social Committee of the Church on the Indochinese problem, pointing out that the Church flatly rejected Nixon's "Vietnamization" policy and stressed that the US must be held responsible for the prolongation of the war in Southeast Asia," withdraw all its troops from Indochina and stop backing the Nguyen Van Thieu clique.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION